

Legislative Bulletin.....May 19, 2004

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H.Con.Res. 424 — Honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day

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Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, May 19, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has nine findings regarding the historical significance of the red poppy and resolves:

“That Congress—

“honors past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families by encouraging every American to wear a red poppy on Memorial Day as a sign of admiration and thanks to those individuals who died to preserve freedom and democracy in the United States.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution’s findings, the red poppy has been worn in the United States for more than 80 years as a way to remember those individuals who died fighting for freedom and democracy around the world and to raise money to help disabled veterans. The flower’s significance arises from the fact that the red poppy was the first living plant that sprouted in the battlefields devastated by fighting during World War I. They grew abundantly in the trenches and craters of the war-torn battlefields in Northern France and Belgium. The resolution adds that, “in 2004, wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day is especially timely considering the sacrifices United States soldiers are making in Iraq and Afghanistan for freedom, democracy, and security.”

Committee Action: While the resolution was introduced on May 13, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, the Committee did not consider it.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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